



"Technology helping people"



Gray Davis,
Governor

California Health and Human Services Agency Data Center

1651 Alhambra Boulevard
Sacramento, California 95816
(916) 739-7500

October 4, 2002

Dear Authorized Food Stamp Retailer:

Subject: **ACCEPTING FOOD STAMP COUPONS AFTER CONVERSION TO
ELECTRONIC BENEFIT TRANSFER (EBT)**

In July 2002, the State of California began conversion from food stamp coupons to EBT in Alameda and Yolo Counties. The statewide conversion is scheduled to continue with five additional counties in November 2002 and seven more in January 2003. So far, California's EBT card (Golden State Advantage) has been well received by customers and grocers alike.

As EBT is used more widely throughout California, you can expect to see a decline in quantity of food stamp coupons in your store. However, it is important that you **continue to accept food stamp coupons** even after your county has converted to EBT. It is possible that residents of your county will have coupons that have been saved or are left over. There will also be people with food stamp coupons that may travel to your area from other counties not yet converted to EBT. California's conversion to EBT will not be complete until December 2004.

The United States Department of Agriculture, Food and Nutrition Service (FNS), requires authorized food stamp merchants to continue to accept food stamp coupons until further notice. Furthermore, authorized merchants must continue to accept food coupons even though an EBT system operates at a particular store location. If you have questions about retailer requirements for Food Stamp Program participation, please direct them to the FNS field office in Sacramento at (916) 498-5790 or in Los Angeles at (213) 894-7834.

The State of California appreciates your support of the Food Stamp Program and the California EBT Project.

Sincerely,

Signed copy of letter resides in Project Library

CHRISTINE DUNHAM
EBT Project Director



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To learn more about saving energy, visit the HHSDC web site at <http://www.hhsdc.ca.gov>

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